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AP English Language

3. It is better to die for what you believe in rather than to lie and save your life.

As great as the concept of dying for a cause seems, it really all depends on what exactly you believe in, this question is rather ambiguous because who really determines what is “better”? Is it god? And who exactly is this question aimed at me as a person, or society in general? Personally, as courageous and heroic as the concept seems I probably wouldn’t die for what I believe in, as selfish as it may be mainly because, I’m growing up in a generation and location where everything is handed to me and we really don’t believe in anything besides good skin and healthy hair follicles. If I was living in Saudi Arabia where women’s rights are put to the test every day, or in South Korea where they have overruling dictators then the situation might be different. But the fact of the matter is when I really sit and think I have no beliefs that I would die for and part of this is due to the Westernized culture I live in, America is scientifically proven to be an individualistic country; where people rely on personal success rather than on group success to maintain happiness. However, even if I did have strong beliefs I still wouldn’t die for them partly because dying for a cause solves absolutely nothing. I mean when did the concept of being a martyr suddenly become part of a job description? You don’t have to reenact some cheesy patriotic independence movie to showcase what you strongly believe in. Now some may read this and say “Wow how can you just lie to save yourself, that’s outrageous.” The fact is humans lie everyday it’s in our nature whether we tell our wife she looks really good in that pair of jeans, or when you were a kid and told your mom you didn’t go to that party she said you couldn’t go to. Were genetically programmed to tell white lies no matter how hard we try, and if we have the chance to either die for a cause or save our families, as sweet and endearing the thought may seem almost all people would chose to live. Because we believe were invincible, sooner or later we know we’re going to die, but knowing you can prolong it or control it makes us feel powerful. This leads back to Westernized views, where everyman is for himself, and it’s the good thing to do to save your family (or use them as an excuse).